

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4964

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R E O T A G S A N D S U B J L I N E

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MO SF WA RH SOPN

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PRESS REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S

ZURICH TRIP ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: MOROCCAN PRESS REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE SEMI-OFFICIAL LEVEL, HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SCHIZOPHRENIC. ON THE ONE HAND, MOROCCO HAS CONSISTENTLY REINFORCED ITS THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS BY PAYING HEAVY RHETORICAL TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HOWEVER, LIKE MANY PRO-WESTERN AFRICAN REGIMES, THE MANNER IN WHICH ANGOLA WAS LIBERATED, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR EVEN GREATER SOVIET-CUBAN MISCHIEF IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE PRODUCED A DISTINCT IF
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INDIRECTLY EXPRESSED ATTITUDE OF WARY HOPEFULNESS FOR THE SUCCESS

OF THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS. END SUMMARY

2. THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT HARsher IN CRITICIZING THE US EFFORT, THOUGH IT HAS STOPPED SHORT OF REPUDIATING THE SECRETARY'S MISSION. SUMMARY OF PRESS COMMENT FOLLOWS:

3. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS: FOR THE MOST PART, THE TREATMENT WAS STRAIGHT WITH REUTERS AND AFP WIRE OUTPUT HEAVILY LEANED UPON. HOWEVER, SOME MILDLY DISSIDENT EDITORIAL VIEWS BEGAN TO APPEAR FOLLOWING THE SEPT 4-6 ZURICH MEETING. ARABIC LANGUAGE AL ANBAA, SEPT 9, STATED THAT MOROCCO WOULD SUPPORT AFRICAN MILITANTS UNTIL THEY RECOVERED THEIR USURPED RIGHTS. A SEPT 7 MAROC-SOIR COLUMNIST CHARGED THAT NOTHING CONCRETE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT ZURICH. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTHERN FRICA WAS SIMPLE: VORSTER SHOULD SURRENDER POWER TO THE BLACK MAJORITY THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA. THE US, SAID THE EDITORIAL, FOUND ITSELF IN A DILEMMA: IF VORSTER DID NOT YIELD, A BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION WOULD BE INEVITABLE WITH THE US SUPPORTING THE WHITES AND THE SOVIETS BACKING 20 MILLION REBELLING BLACKS. AL ANBAA WROTE IN A SEPTEMBER 9 EDITORIAL THAT, "WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE (DUE TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ZURICH) SO FAR MAKES ONE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA..." IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. HOWEVER, THE PAPER WENT ON, AMERICA DID NOT REALLY CARE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, CONSIDERING IT AN INTERNAL PROBLEM OF THAT COUNTRY.

4. OPPOSITION PRESS: AL ALAM (ISTIQLAL) WROTE SEPTEMBER 2, "IT SEEMS THAT THE US IS DETERMINED TO COOPERATE ONCE AGAIN WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN TRYING TO IMPOSE STABILITY IN THE SOUTH OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THIS WOULD BE A PERIOD OF PEACE FOR THE WHITE MINORITY, DURING WHICH IT COULD ENSURE ITS EXISTENCE AND CONCENTRATE ITS FORCES FOR DESTROYING THE AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY...WASHINGTON HAS GONE BACK TO COORDINATING ITS POLICY WITH PRETORIA IN SPITE OF AFRICAN REPUDICATION OF THAT POLICY." L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) WROTE SEPTEMBER 4 THAT THE ZURICH MEETING AND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT "APARTHEID WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY CONCEPT OF HUMAN DIGNITY" WERE REALLY ELECTION PLOYS, AS THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF RAPID, INTERNAL REFORMS IN SOUTH AFRICA. WHILE THE LOSS OF NAMIBIA BY THE WHITES IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, RHODESIA'S GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET GIVEN UP. IN AN OTHERWISE CONFIDENTIAL

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OBJECTIVE REPORT, L'OPINION OF SEPT 9 ADDED "NEITHER NATO NOR KISSINGER HAVE THE INTENTION OF SEEIN THE SOVIET NAVY SAIL INTO JOHANNESBURG (SIC) ... UNTIL THE SMITH AND THE VORSTERS SHUT UP, UNTIL THE WEST UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FREE WORLD, AFRICA MUST BE FOR THE AFRICANS, ONLY THEN AT LAST WILL THESE SAME AFRICANS RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR SALVATION CAN ONLY LIE IN THE DOCTRINE OF NON-ALIGNMENT." AL ALAM SEPT 9 STATED THAT VORSTER AND SMITH WERE TRYING TO FRUSTRATE ALL EFFORTS TO

REACH A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN INHABITANTS.

5. COMMENT: IT CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ABOVE SAMPLING OF COMMENTS THAT THERE IS A GREAT WARINESS ON THE PART OF MOROCCANS, BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, TO SUPPORT WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE AN AMERICAN EFFORT TO PRESERVE WHITE DOMINATION IN SOUTHER AFRICA. THE ISSUE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS ONE OF THE KEY TOUCHSTONES FOR MOROCCO'S NON-ALIGNED REPUTATION IN AFRICA. WHILE IT WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH ANYTHING ACCEPTABLE TO THE "FIVE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS," IT WILL NOT BREAK RANKS WITH AFRICA TO SUPPORT AN UNPOPULAR SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA AND/OR RHODESIA. IT MUST ALSO BE NOTED THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE ITS CASE BEFORE THE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROPOSED OAU EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON THE SAHARA MET.
ANDERSON

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